

## Overarching Principles For All Transitions

Family-centered care is the acknowledged best practice model for families who have children/youth with special health care needs. It requires a commitment driven by a collaborative partnership between the family and professionals which enables children/youth to assume increasing ownership of the decision making process. Therefore:

- The transition process for children/youth with special health care needs and their family requires family-centered care which assures best practices, protocols and standards will achieve optimal outcomes including growth despite the difficulty inherent in any change.
- The transition of children/youth with special health care needs and their family requires a collaborative partnership between the family and the professionals involved.
- The transition activities for children/youth with special health care needs and their family begins with the initial referral and are on-going as needed or requested.
- The transition of children/youth with special health care needs and their family requires the exchange of information and the transfer of those skills individually determined as appropriate.
- The transition of children/youth with special health care needs and their family is one of shared responsibility between the family and professionals with varying degrees of accountability over time.
- The transitions of children/youth with special health care needs and their family should be successful and celebrated.

*J. Woll, 2005*